

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 15331 081525Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION

UNDER THE HEADING "CONGRESS TOO ECONOMICAL?" HANS MUYS IN
DE STANDARD AUGUST 8 DISCUSSES THE REASONS FOR THE
"THRIFTINESS" OF CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN AID
DESPITE SECRETARY VANCE'S INSISTANCE THAT SUPPORT TO THE
THIRD WORLD IS A "MATTER OF ENLIGHTENED U.S. SELF INTEREST".
MUYS CLAIMS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE
MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE WORLD BANK AND THE
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY -- ORGANIZATIONS WHICH
ACCORDING TO CONSERVATIVE CRITICS HAVE MAINTAINED MARXIST
REGIMES WITH THEIR LOANS AND WHICH ACCORDING TO LIBERALS
HAVE BACKED UP REPRESSIVE MILITARY REGIMES. HE SAYS
PROTECTIONISTS IN CONGRESS HAVE AN OBJECTION OF THEIR OWN:
NAMELY THAT THESEKINDSO LOANS STRENGTHEN THE COMPETITIVE
POSITION OF OTHER COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. ALSO VERY
IMPORTANT IN THE EYES OF THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, HE SAYS,
IS THE CRITICISM THAT FOREIGN AID DOES NOT REACH THE
POOREST PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. HE SUMS UP:
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"ALL THESE ARGUMENTS TOGETHER HAVE RESULTED IN A 13 PER-
CENT CUT IN THE BUDGET SUBMITTED BY CARTER. AND FURTHER
ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE IN THE FALL TO DRASTICALLY CURB THE
WB AND IDA FUNDS. THE DRASTIC REDUCTION OF FOREIGN AID
'BECAUSE IT IS NOT WELL USED' IS A PARTICULARLY SIMPLISTIC
FORM OF FIRMNESS OF PRINCIPLE. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT
CARTER, BRZEZINSKI AND VANCE ARE FAR FROM HAPPY WITH IT.

FOR THEY ARE THE ONES TO WHOM, AS A RESULT OF THIS ATTITUDE
OF CONGRESS, THE POLITICAL BILL WILL BE PRESENTED".ITEM

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